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President’s Statement

New NFYFC President Charlotte Smith reflects on her first year in office learning more about Young Farmers’ Clubs

I’m delighted to be the new, and very proud, president of The National Federation of Young Farmers’ Clubs.

I’m not young, and I’ve never been a farmer, so you, like me, may well be wondering what on earth I’m doing here!

For the past 20 years I’ve worked as a journalist covering farming and rural life so I’m well aware of the importance of Young Farmers’ Clubs and was delighted to be asked to get involved.

There were things I expected when I took over as President of NFYFC – mud, laughter, farming jokes of dubious quality – and you’ve delivered on all of those! What’s surprised me is all the things I didn’t expect, from the frankly insane amounts of energy you have, to the brilliant drama, debating and campaigning I’ve seen.

I can’t think of another organisation which covers the country, embraces people from the age of 10 to their mid-20s and runs largely on the generosity and talents of its members (and their long-suffering families) with the support of a small but dedicated staff. It’s genuinely amazing.

But what’s really struck me about the events I’ve been to – from the Annual Convention to your county shows and debates – is the sense of family and friendship. Young Farmers look out for each other. It doesn’t matter what the occasion is or how inconvenient it is, YFC members will be there if a club mate needs them. Be it supporting someone about to make their first public speech – or show their first sheep – to making sure everyone gets home from a late night. This generosity of spirit has been lovely to see and to become part of.

I’m aware that I have a class act to follow. Poul Christenson and his wife Margaret have given their time and expertise and kindness to this organisation for many years, and have been enormously helpful to me and my family too. I hope they’re having a long and very well-deserved rest!

I’m looking forward to meeting many more of you this year and learning even more about what it means to be a Young Farmer.

Thank you for letting me be part of this fantastic organisation – I’m having so much fun!

“What’s really struck me is the sense of family and friendship. Young Farmers look out for each other”
Building safer futures

NFYFC’s commitment to the industry and its members has developed skills and spread the farm safety message even wider in 2017

When Young Farmers’ Clubs were asked to pledge their support for farm safety, they showed the world they were serious about it by posting all over social media.

Pledge cards shared on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram by YFC members and their clubs promised to deliver the Farm Safety Curve training module during the 2017/18 membership year and showed their support for this important initiative.

NFYFC’s call to action was launched during Farm Safety Week, which is run by the Farm Safety Foundation – the organisation that worked with NFYFC to develop the Farm Safety Curve module.

The pledges resulted in more clubs than ever delivering training at the start of the membership year as well as a greater awareness of farm safety.

Supported by the national Chairman Ed Ford, the Federation took a more active role with its YFCs to promote farm safety in 2017. And after some of the Federation’s counties lost members in tragic farming incidents, localised farm safety initiatives were also launched, such as Devon Federation of Young Farmers’ Clubs’ (FYFC) Growing Safer Farmers scheme. The County is working with machinery dealers in the south west to reduce the number of faulty PTO shafts following the loss of one of their members in a farm accident. The scheme may be rolled out nationally in 2018.

NFYFC’s sponsors and industry partners were also keen to help push the farm safety message and Honda launched an offer to give all YFCs a free ATV maintenance training session, which was widely taken up.

It is perhaps this broad range of training opportunities offered by NFYFC that is one of the biggest assets of being a member. Training is delivered at a club level as well as through NFYFC, where members can gain nationally recognised qualifications for its Train the Trainer and Advanced Train the Trainer courses.

NFYFC’s training helps to boost our
members’ CPD skills and develop their confidence. Our club level training, which ranges from learning about event management through to discussing mental health, is delivered by YFC trainers – often local members with a passion for education and giving back.

As well as the traditional courses, members also learn a great deal through our varied competitions programme. Judges – often industry professionals – are always impressed by the standard of entries from YFCs and 2017 proved no exception. For many members, a competition has influenced careers or inspired a new hobby – such as Haldon YFC’s winning ladies’ Tug of War team who have gone on to compete in European championships.

It’s not just our competitions programme that celebrates the industry and its career opportunities though. Regular job features in the membership magazine Ten26 promote agri roles that members may not have considered and workshops, seminars and our AGRI Forum offer an insight into this exciting sector. In 2017, we worked with Savills to guide young rural entrepreneurs in their first steps to starting up and growing a successful business. A new website, supported by Defra, was launched called The Smart Farming Guide – an online resource packed with information, case studies and advice to support new rural ventures.

It was also important for NFYFC to give young farmers a voice in 2017 about the many changes that will take shape post-Brexit, and a series of discussion groups were set up for members to share their views with Defra. Representing the members at this critical time for the industry and the country is a role NFYFC has not taken on lightly and the organisation continues to liaise with Government and provide opportunities for young people to have a say in any future agricultural policy.

As our industry changes, so does our Federation. A move for the organisation to become a charity, rather than a friendly society, was agreed in 2017 and we continue to focus our efforts on growing the organisation and its membership. As the leading organisation that represents young rural people, we worked hard to promote our YFCs in 2017. National Young Farmers’ Week kick-started the new membership year in September and already we have seen a boost in membership numbers on the same time for the previous year.

It is our YFCs that work at the heart of their rural communities and create thriving clubs that offer friendship, social activities and training to young people in remote locations. Membership of NFYFC can change lives and we look forward to continuing to do even more to develop and support rural young people throughout England and Wales.
What an incredible year for the Federation, its members and for me as my first year as the Chairman of the Board of Management. We faced some financial challenges in 2017, an emergency situation at Annual Convention and started the journey of reviewing the organisation’s governance and charitable status. But as always, NFYFC rose to these challenges.

One of the key decisions made by NFYFC Council was to approve the Board’s recommendation that the Federation should move towards becoming a Company Limited by Guarantee with charitable status. This essential change will safeguard the Federation, its officials and its future.

It was during the Annual Convention weekend where our emergency planning was put to the test when around 150 YFC members were displaced from their hotel due to a fire. The NFYFC event team’s well-planned procedures meant all members involved in the incident were accounted for and looked after quickly. Later in the year, emergency plans were tested again during difficult circumstances at the Royal Welsh Show.

Emergency planning for all YFC events is now a topic for training to ensure that similar plans are created throughout the Federation.

Annual Convention did not meet its set budget in 2017 because we missed the target on ticket sales. This meant tightening our belts for the rest of the year as the Convention surplus is a critical line in the NFYFC income budget. Despite this, the overall NFYFC budget has remained on target and thanks must go to the Federation’s Financial Controller for providing detailed information at Board meetings – allowing well-informed decisions to be made.

NFYFC’s commercial arm HOPS Labour Solutions faced another challenging year as the UK started Brexit negotiations. It has created an indefinite and competitive marketplace. The uncertainty of the operating surplus means NFYFC’s main budgets remain uncertain too.

NFYFC’s investments performed well and we must thank the Federation’s holding trustees for managing these funds with the medium and long term in mind. Plans and funds are now in place to modernise the YFC Centre, which has been at Stoneleigh Park for 50 years without any significant alterations being made. Building work will commence in the summer of 2018.

As well as modernising the NFYFC building, we are also ensuring our online presence is updated and relevant to young people today. A new website and a significant update to the membership database were commissioned in 2017. Considerations are now being made for an online system that all young people can use to join NFYFC.

The Board restructured the staff team in 2017 and additional posts were created to support the volume of work that is now passing through the YFC Centre.

A Review Group has examined charitable status options available to NFYFC and a big part of this work has been to consult widely on the structure and composition of NFYFC’s Council. Final decisions will be made by the Council in 2018 and put forward to the Annual General Meeting.

The Board is grateful to our sponsors, Defra and the Cabinet Office, for their generous support in 2017. The Federation could not deliver its programme of work without the support of sponsors and partners.

Thank you finally to all our YFC members – without whom this Federation would not exist. You are the people who represent this Federation, that deliver or get involved in club and NFYFC activities and who are proud to say you are a Young Farmer. You are our future.

“Thank you to our YFC members. You are the people who represent this Federation. You are our future.”
When I joined Chelmsford YFC in 2006, I was oblivious to the impact the organisation would have on the next 12 years of my life. I first got involved with NFYFC’s Council in 2014 and knew then that it was the right time for me to start giving back to an organisation that had rewarded me with so much.

Representing 25,000 members is no mean feat – but the events I have attended, the campaigns I have supported and the people I have met while leading the Council have all made it an amazing experience. Invitations come in abundance when you’re national Chairman and some of the more memorable events have been the Farmers Weekly Awards, the Oxford Farming Conference, a reception at the House of Lords with The Farming Community Network and the NFU Conference that followed the Brexit vote.

Being Chairman following that Brexit decision was a huge responsibility. One of my aims as Chairman was to ensure that YFC members had a voice – and at no other time in our recent history have young farmers needed a greater voice than now! NFYFC has consulted with YFC members about what they would like to see in the new domestic agricultural policy and has brought young people together with Defra to share these views too.

As a farmer, while Brexit was of concern to me, even more of a pressing issue was farm safety. I have been a Farm Safety Ambassador for a few years and, with farm fatalities hardly in decline, I wanted to use my influence as Chairman to improve the situation.

During Farm Safety Week, I asked our YFCs to show how committed they are to farm safety by pledging to deliver NFYFC’s Farm Safety Curve training module in their clubs during the new membership year. The response was incredible with more than 40 clubs and five counties making a pledge on social media to run the training and it has been one of the most popular YFC courses this year.

One of our counties started their own farm safety campaign in 2017 following the tragic death of two of its members. Devon FYFC launched the Growing Safer Farmers scheme to work with local machinery dealers to improve PTO safety on farms. I would like to see the scheme rolled out nationally and we are talking to industry bodies about this possibility.

This idea just shows how influential our YFC community can be and I have been privileged in my role as Chairman to meet with so many clubs and counties throughout England and Wales. I have enjoyed an epic tour of your rallies, balls, AGMs and other exciting and interesting events! Each occasion has been different with its own traditions.

My year as Chairman has been fun, exciting, emotional and sometimes exhausting! Most of all, it has been a huge honour and a privilege to represent and lead the membership. I trust I have served you well. A Chairman is nothing without the staff team, officer team, steering group chairs or the NFYFC Council, so thank you to everyone for your support.

If I’d told the 15-year-old me that signed up to Chelmsford YFC that I would one day be the Chairman of the Federation’s national council, I wouldn’t have believed it.

But that’s why NFYFC is so impressive – it nurtures its 10-26-year-old members and provides opportunities to help young rural people become the next generation of leaders and entrepreneurs. Long may NFYFC’s influence continue to help shape the futures of more rural young people.
Championing our rural youth

NFYFC’s active and varied programme of activities shapes futures, creating entrepreneurs, leaders and compassionate citizens who give a positive contribution to the YFC, rural and farming communities.
Joining a Young Farmers’ Club helps many young people grow in confidence as they discover new skills and interests through our 619 clubs and 45 County Federations. This network of YFC activity across England and Wales is built on NFYFC’s firm foundations and is guided by a national programme that helps Young Farmers learn and develop both professionally and personally.

Five key steering groups influence the Federation’s national plans and activities. These groups are made up of elected members from every County Federation in England and Wales and their input helped to shape our work in 2017.

The guidance and support of NFYFC’s national Council directed our successful Annual Convention in Torquay, shaped our input and actions over discussions about a new British agricultural policy, decided our competitions theme and events and set our training delivery targets. The Federation and its Council can be proud of a very successful year that helped thousands of our members to have fun, learn and achieve plenty.

**Agriculture and Rural Issues (AGRI)**

As the politicians continue to debate life after Brexit, Young Farmers have also been making sure future policy fits their purpose. The AGRI Steering Group’s determination to give YFC members a platform to get their views heard about what they wanted to see in a future British agricultural policy paid off.

NFYFC has been represented at various roundtable meetings, including Defra, NFU Brexit and at policy-focused discussions. Debates were also held at high profile events, such as the AGRI Forum in Torquay, where guest facilitator NFU Vice President Guy Smith asked Young Farmers what they wanted to see in their industry futures.

These views, along with the NFYFC Brexit survey, were all communicated to Defra and members were also given the chance to speak directly to the Department’s representatives at smaller regional events. Our YFC Talks to Defra events ran throughout November and December and were an excellent way for young farmers to share their opinions and views on the state of the industry and how it could be improved.

This feedback from YFC members also helped NFYFC to produce its policy position paper – Considerations for a future British Agricultural Policy.

As well as YFC members being heard in the UK, their voices are also being heard in Europe. As joint members of the European Council of Young Farmers (CEJA) with the NFU’s Next Generation Forum, NFYFC has an even wider reach and understanding of the industry. The Federation remains a joint-member of CEJA to help everyone stay informed about the changes and developments post-Brexit.

It’s not just Brexit and agriculture where YFC members have a voice. We are also represented at Rural England meetings, liaise with the English Rural Housing Association and the National Housing Federation and have associations with many industry and rural groups.

Networking and promotion were the themes of this year’s AGRI Forum at the Annual Convention in Torquay. The 2017 Forum was called Making Your Mark and included a panel of marketing powerhouses comprising Jane King Chief Executive of the Agriculture & Horticulture Development Board (AHDB), Founder of British Food Fortnight Alexia Robinson, and social media entrepreneur Simon Haley. Their marketing savvy advice helped our YFC members and visitors with ideas and tactics for promoting existing or future projects and businesses.

Our AGRI network extended wider this year as NFYFC linked up with young conservationists from A Focus on Nature at the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust’s (GWCT) Allerton Project. The two organisations joined forces for a Future Wildlife, Future Farming event so we could share best practice and talk about the big questions of future sustainability and productivity. The event was well-regarded and much positive publicity followed it.

These events are a great training ground for our members and in 2017 industry-specific training was also made available to Young Farmers. Professor Jan Godsell from the University of Warwick hosted
the more creative endeavours such as Stockjudging and Fence Erecting to the agriculturally-focused activities such as performing and Floral Arts, there is a competition to suit everyone. Members have formed lifelong friendships and developed in confidence from getting involved in our competitions programme and, in 2017, it was great to see teams working together.

There is no greater teamwork than putting on a show and our five national Entertainments finalists impressed audiences and judges in Torquay during the Annual Convention. A moving celebration of our coal heritage from Llanfyllin YFC in Montgomery was the winning performance.

Wales enjoyed a hat trick of wins during the weekend as they also came out on top in our Cheerleading competition with Knighton YFC in Radnor lifting the trophy and Tregynon YFC in Montgomery taking home the Street Dancing title.

But it was the Northern Area that scooped Senior Member of the Year glory as Alice Singleton from Samlesbury YFC in Lancashire was rewarded for all the work she does for her club and county.

The summer months brought more competitive excitement with our Competitions Weekend in July at Staffordshire County Showground celebrating the best of our Public Speaking finalists alongside more active pursuits such as Clay Pigeon Shooting, Fence Erecting and Efficiency with Safety. Pembroke shire FYFC proved their first aid skills were on form by winning the Efficiency with Safety title for the seventh time!

On Sunday we watched collaboration in action when the members competed in Rounders, Netball and Five-a-Side Football. All the winners admitted that teamwork was the key to their success.

The Great Yorkshire Show played host to our Dairy Stockjudging finals in July with the support of the breeders who allow NFYFC to use their stock, the Society for permitting us to attend and the hospitality from Holstein UK.

One of the most hard-fought competitions is our Tug of War and there was much fun and competitive spirit at our final at the Tenbury Show in August.

In September it was time for our more traditional farming competitions with the Stockman and the Young Stockman of the Year finals, sponsored by Rutland Electric Fencing. These competitions require skill and determination with tasks completed in advance of the competition weekend as well as the judging at the event.

Showcasing our talent to the public is made possible at the Malvern Autumn Show in September as hundreds of spectators witness NFYFC’s Cookery and Floral Arts finals during the Show weekend. There was even an opportunity for our Pembroke shire cookery winners to give a demonstration!

The year concluded with our first competition for the 2017-18 programme – the Live and Carcase Stockjudging at The English Winter Fair in Staffordshire where Herefordshire won the overall trophy for a second consecutive year.

Competition

NFYFC’s packed competitions programme is one of the Federation’s most important vehicles for learning. Taking part in competitions provides valuable skills both personally and professionally and encourages participation in club activities. The broad range of competitions means there’s something to appeal to all tastes. From the agriculturally-focused activities such as Stockjudging and Fence Erecting to the more creative endeavours such as
Events and Marketing

As the needs of rural young people change, it will always be NFYFC’s challenge to offer services and activities that help them to develop and succeed. It is why our marketing is key to shaping our future growth as we must continue to appeal to young people living in the countryside.

One of the principle aims for the Events and Marketing steering group in 2017 was to focus on retaining members by showing them how to make the most of their membership. NFYFC offers three key national events throughout the membership year, with the first being its YFC Ski trip in January. More than 200 YFC members joined NFYFC in the French resort of Val Thorens for a week on the slopes in 2017.

The biggest event of the YFC year though is NFYFC’s Annual Convention and in 2017 more than 5,000 Young Farmers headed south to the seaside town of Torquay for three days of fun, learning and achievement.

As well as the exciting line-up of bands and Radio 1 DJs, including Dev, Huw Stephens, Matt Edmondson and NFYFC’s Ambassadors Scott Mills and Chris Stark, there were competition finals and serious discussion to be had too. The entertainment is agreed by YFC members at the steering group meetings based on feedback from the membership and the fancy dress theme – this year Princes and Princesses – is voted on by the members through an online poll.

While the weekend was a great success overall, there was a major incident to manage when one of the hotels that was hosting YFC members caught fire. No one was injured and everyone was accounted for very quickly thanks to efficient and speedy action by the NFYFC team and local emergency services.

NFYFC’s third event is held mainly online with encouragement for our YFCs and County Federations to host local events to encourage recruitment. National Young Farmers’ Week (NYFW) was held from 18-24 September in 2017 and was the most successful NYFW yet! Membership figures were up by 6% in September on the same time the previous year.

The NYFW message reached more than 1.2m on social media as County Federations and YFCs posted photos, stories and graphics online to promote their new members’ nights. We also launched a YFC Selfie competition and asked YFCs to post a club selfie that would encourage Chris Stark from BBC Radio 1 and Charlotte Smith to want to join their club. Whitchurch YFC was chosen as our winners out of 54 entries.

The Federation also enjoyed national press coverage in the Sunday Telegraph, with a promotional piece about NFYFC written by President Charlotte Smith, as well as articles throughout the year online and in print in Farmers Weekly and Farmers Guardian, among other industry titles.

Sharpening up NFYFC’s branding has been a focus for 2017 too, with a refreshed look for its online newsletter YFC Buzz and its printed membership magazine Ten26. The Federation is now working towards rolling out a unified brand across the whole of YFC.
Personal Development

NFYFC sets great importance on the need for members to feel a sense of achievement and for them to learn valuable skills that they can use in other areas of their lives. Our training programme offers opportunities for members to gain qualifications and to add CPD skills to their CVs, as well as helping them develop confidence.

The Personal Development Steering Group helps to shape our training for members and in 2017 they were keen to promote the benefits more and ensure more participation.

The Top Trainer award has been changed so that it now recognises the achievements of an individual volunteer trainer.

To celebrate when milestones have been reached by our NFYFC Trainers, new e-badges have been developed and are emailed to them for the person to store or share on social media.

New county training awards have also been developed to help encourage them to deliver more training. Counties will be awarded Bronze, Silver or Gold awards depending on the level of training they deliver during the year.

Members attended a total of 1,905 curve modules in the 2016/17 membership year and the Personal Development group have set a target for 2,500 to be delivered in 2017/18. There will be three core modules that clubs will be encouraged to deliver, which include Farm Safety, Rural+ and Fundamental, which is a new module that teaches clubs about YFC operations and best practice. Three further Curve modules are also in development based on Anti-Bullying, British Agriculture and Managing Events.

In 2017, two Train the Trainer courses were held in the Northern Area and in the South West Area, which has boosted the number of members who are able to deliver training. An Advanced Train the Trainer course was also held to help expand the skills of our experienced trainers.

NFYFC also offers training for Area and County Chairs and Vice Chairs near the start of the membership year aimed at supporting them in their new role. The weekend, called Equipped, was held at Condover Hall in Shropshire and allowed participants to network, share good practice from their counties, take part in workshops, develop new skills and share opinions. There was also some fun to be had on outdoor activities and an evening karaoke session for those with (or without) vocal talents!

Helping YFC members to broaden their horizons is also a key goal for the Federation and its YFC Travel programme is essential to making that happen. It was NFYFC’s 70th anniversary
of offering YFC Travel opportunities and YFC members enjoyed another year of flying all over the world to rural locations in Australia, South Africa, Canada and the USA to name just a few of the destinations.

New safeguarding resources were produced in 2017 with a generic leaflet and a pocket guide for club officers. The Source – the YFC club handbook – was also updated to help more YFCs with the development of activities and operations.

In 2017, the Federation organised a Positive Behaviour campaign to encourage YFC members attending Convention to respect the local community and area where the event was being hosted. The campaign not only helps NFYFC’s relationship with the local community but also helps to safeguard members attending the Annual Convention by encouraging them to think twice about the impact of decisions.

One of the major successes of 2017 was the conclusion of our Countryside Challenge, which was supported by Pears Foundation and the Cabinet Office. NFYFC recorded that YFCs spent more than 5,000 hours delivering projects in their local communities as part of the campaign. The initiative meant NFYFC could give grants of up to £400 to YFCs to help them complete a project or develop their club. It has boosted the reputation of YFCs in their local areas and promoted, on a much wider scale, the positive impact Young Farmers have in their rural communities.

Youth Forum
The Youth Forum was created to help reflect the views of NFYFC’s younger members in the planning and development of activities and events. The group is made up of winning Junior Member of the Year finalists, an elected representative from each Area and also has three co-option places available.

This year the Youth Forum worked on a number of projects to help promote YFC and British agriculture.

The first project expanded on the successful Watch That Cowpat! game by developing a series of fun fact cards which can be used throughout the game as an agri-educational resource. These facts give the players a more in-depth knowledge of the agricultural industry and the sections on the game board. For example, when a player lands on pigs the player can then pick up a pig fact card which contains more information.

The Youth Forum decided to get actively involved in Open Farm Sunday in 2017. They created a poster to advertise the ways in which members could do something during the event and how they could potentially promote YFC. The next steps are to raise more awareness about what clubs and YFC members are already doing to help support Open Farm Sunday.

In support of the Yellow Wellies Farm Safety campaign, the Youth Forum visited the RADAR health and safety centre in Northern Ireland to look at its new farm safety area. The group were inspired by the people they met who spend their lives campaigning for better farm safety and educating young people through similar centres.

It is crucial to learn farm safety from a young age to avoid picking up bad habits and it’s why the Youth Forum continues to promote this work. We also got behind Farm Safety Week and supported the Federation’s own campaign to encourage more clubs to deliver NFYFC’s Farm Safety Curve training module.

The Youth Forum thrives because of our Area representatives, co-options and Junior Member of the Year finalists. The 2017 finalists brought with them renewed enthusiasm and passion for the Federation and the Youth Forum.
National competition and trophy winners 2016-17

From practising traditional agricultural skills to discovering creative talents, NFYFC’s competitions programme offers an opportunity to learn lifelong skills and nurture great friendships. There was plenty to be proud of in 2016-17 where YFC members from all over England and Wales impressed our judges.

ENGLISH WINTER FAIR 2016
21 & Under Beef Live & Carcase – Yorkshire E
Thomas Barley
26 & Under Beef Live & Carcase – Herefordshire A
John Hanson
21 & Under Pork Live & Carcase – Herefordshire A
Megan Watkins
26 & Under Pork Live & Carcase – Yorkshire D
Thomas Stapleton

ANNUAL CONVENTION – TORQUAY 2017
Senior Member of the Year
Lancashire A – Alice Singleton
Performing Arts (Drama) – Llanfyllin, Montgomeryshire
Street Dance – Tregynon, Montgomeryshire

COMPETITIONS DAY 2017
Junior Reading – Gloucestershire
Abigail Lee, Hannah Sayers, Emma Jane Austin
16 & Under Speaking – Yorkshire A
Rebecca Pickles, Anna Booth, Rebecca Stapleton
Best Chairman – Pembrokeshire
Nia Lloyd

Best Speaker – Yorkshire A
Rebecca Pickles
Best Vote of Thanks – Pembrokeshire
Alaw Grug Harries
Braintrust – Pembrokeshire
Tomas Evans, Ieuan Harries, Rhys Jones, Josie Lewis
Best Panellist – Pembrokeshire
Tomas Evans
Best Chairman – Pembrokeshire
Rhys Jones
After Dinner Speaking – Pembrokeshire
Charles George, Tania Hancock, Carwyn James, Samuel Kurtz, Jill Luke-Evans
Best Speaker – Derbyshire, Samuel Slack
Junior Member of the Year – Yorkshire A
Thomas Bailey
Situations Vacant – Devon A
James Gould

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NFYFC Competitions

Clay Pigeon Shooting (17 & Under) – Hampshire
Alexander Drake
Clay Pigeon Shooting (26 & Under) – Buckinghamshire
Henry Mitchell
Fence Erecting – Devon A
David Ford, Samuel Govier, Darcy Heard
Efficiency with Safety – Pembrokeshire A
Caryl Bevan, Rhys Bevan, Alistair Lawrence, Berwyn Warlow
Best ATV Handler – Cumbria – Will Longmire

SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIP 2017
Men’s 5-a-Side Football (16-26 years) – Cumbria A, Skelton YFC
Jamie Dobinson, Simon Graham, Jack Peile, Tom Peile, Scott Wetherell, Mark Lucas Winspear
Ladies Netball (16-26 Years) – Shropshire A
Emily Dixon, Clara Edwards, Lucy Hockenhull, Elizabeth Jackson, Georgie Miller, Jessica Powell, Bindy Udale, Jemima Gould
Mixed Rounders (10-16 Years) – Yorkshire A
Jessica Barker, Sam Barker, James Driffield, Joseph Groves, Lily Haste, Madeline Medcroft, Morgan Medcroft, Daisy Roberts, Jacob Ryder, Jessica Salkeld

DAIRY EVENT – GREAT YORKSHIRE SHOW 2017
16 & Under Dairy Stockjudging – Staffordshire A Peter Cotton
21 & Under Dairy Stockjudging – Cumbria A
Rosie Dennison
26 & Under Dairy Stockjudging Linear – Cornwall A
Steven Harris
Overall Team Dairy Stockjudging Team – Cumbria A
Joseph Beatty, Rosie Dennison and Robert Lawrence

TENBURY SHOW 2017
Ladies Tug of War – Devon A, Haldon Group YFC
Suzanne Allanson-Bailey, Emma Davie, Georgina Davie, Sophie Down, Alice Giles, Alice Palfrey, Georgia Woodman, Lauren Woodman, Vikki Maddox
Men’s Tug of War – Devon A, Anstey YFC

THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FARMERS – County Durham
(Champion small County Federation whose membership is among the top 50 per cent of Counties, NFYFC Competitions Final 2016/17)
MERRICK BURRELL TROPHY – Oxfordshire
(County Federation with the largest percentage increase in membership over the past three years ending the 31st August, 2017)
SIDNEY FAWCETT – Cumbria, Christina Coulthard
(Champion small County Federation whose membership is among the top 50 per cent of Counties, NFYFC Competitions Final 2016/17)
THE PRINCE OF WALES – Essex
(County Federation raising the most money per member for a charitable cause)
THE LIONEL HILL TROPHY – Colchester YFC, Essex
(Presented to the Club that has raised the greatest amount of funds per member for charitable purposes over a 12-month period)
YOUNG FARMERS AMBASSADORS AWARD – Elin Harvard, Brecknock
(The best Multi Media Presentation produced by a participant of the YFC Travel Programme 2017)
TOP TRAINER AWARD – Nottinghamshire
(Awarded to the County that delivers The Curve modules to the highest percentage of their membership from September 2016 to August 2017 and to recognise excellence in delivery and continued hard work of YFC trainers).
Area activities

Our seven Areas of the national Federation shape the work we do across England and Wales with our Young Farmers’ Clubs

WALES FYFC

There are 4,983 members in Wales making it the second largest area of the Federation.

WALES CHAIRMAN 2017, LAURA ELLIOTT FROM GOWER YFC, SHARES HER HIGHLIGHTS.

My highlight: "The way current and former members of Wales YFC got behind our ‘Buy a Brick’ campaign. With support from across the country and beyond we raised enough money to proceed with the acquisition of the Head Lease of our YFC Centre.”

I most enjoyed: “Seeing the high level of participation we’ve had from Wales YFC members across competitions, training, travel applications and most importantly our council and sub committee meetings.”

Notable events:
- Our Rural Affairs Conference, themed ‘Live to Farm or Farm to Live’.
- The Royal Welsh Show, where we host our Young People’s Village.
- The Wales YFC AGM in Aberystwyth.
- The Eisteddfod hosted by Eryri Federation in November.

SOUTH WEST AREA

The South West Area is the third largest Area of the Federation with 4,247 YFC members in 2017. As one of the largest areas, members are busy coming up with new ideas, competing regionally and nationally and fundraising for lots of local and national charities.

SOUTH WEST AREA CHAIRMAN 2017, BEN CAVILL FROM FALMOUTH YFC, SHARES HIS HIGHLIGHTS.

My highlight: “Over 1500 members attended the annual two-day Activities Weekend in Newquay, Cornwall, with the renowned AGRI Forum, the entertainments final and BBC Radio 1 DJ Chris Stark.”

I most enjoyed: “Taking 74 junior members on an outdoor activities weekend in the Brecon Beacons.”

Notable events:
- HRH The Prince of Wales officially opened Devon FYFC’s Rural Hub.
- Cornwall FYFC’s Carol Service was a sell-out again!

WEST MIDLANDS AREA

There were 2,925 YFC members in our West Midlands Area in 2017 and 903 of those were based in Shropshire – the largest County Federation in this Area.

THE HIGHLIGHTS FROM WEST MIDLANDS AREA CHAIRMAN 2017 LUKE CROSSMAN FROM LONG ITCHINGTON YFC.

My highlight: “Getting a good level of results at national finals – especially at Competitions Day.”

I most enjoyed: “Attending competitions and seeing the high standard and determination from all involved.”

Notable events: “The Tug of War national final, the Pantomime in Shropshire and the Public Speaking and Disco Dancing in Worcestershire. It never stops impressing me the effort and quality that Young Farmers show.”
NORTHERN AREA
As the largest area of the Federation with 5,490 YFC members, the Northern Area is also one of the most active in terms of competitions, events and fundraising. The Northern Area is also home to our largest County – Yorkshire – with 1,658 members!

NORTHERN AREA CHAIRMAN 2017, JAMES PARK FROM CROOK YFC, SHARES HIS HIGHLIGHTS.

My highlight: “The Northern Area Weekend had a very good turnout from all seven counties. It was really well organised.”

I most enjoyed: “Getting to meet lots of people on the Northern circuit and from around the country. I’m new to the role so it was good to meet new people.”

Notable events:
- Our Northern Area Weekend in spring and our Field Day were two popular events that showcased our members’ talents at competitions.”

EAST MIDLANDS AREA
In 2017, there were 1,834 YFC members in the East Midlands Area. The largest county in the Area is Lincolnshire.

THE HIGHLIGHTS FROM EAST MIDLANDS AREA CHAIRMAN 2017, KATE WAINWRIGHT FROM ASHBOURNE YFC.

My highlight: “The 2017 Area Competitions Weekend was a success with more than 700 members getting involved.”

I most enjoyed: “Getting to see all the counties in the Area. I went to executive meetings, AGMs, rallies, and competitions days.”

Notable events:
- The Area training weekend stood us in good stead for the year ahead.
- Raising the age limit to over-18s at our Area weekend caused a lot of questions but it was handled well and members’ safety is the priority.
- The decision to move the Area Weekend to Cleethorpes. Unfortunately this year’s event was cancelled due to the bad weather.

SOUTH EAST AREA
The South East Area had 1,609 active members in 2017 with Kent FYFC its largest County. Many of the YFCs are based in schools where there are also farms, including Brockhill Park YFC at the award-winning Brockhill Park Performing Arts College.

SOUTH EAST AREA CHAIRMAN 2017, BEN ROBINSON FROM WINCHESTER YFC, SHARES HIS HIGHLIGHTS.

My highlight: “A highly successful Spring Competitions Day with the highest number of entries across the Public Speaking competitions for many years.”

I most enjoyed: “Cheering on our Area’s Tug of War teams at the Tenbury Show.”

Our notable events:
- Our stand at the South of England Show being visited by HRH The Duchess of Cornwall.
- Both NFYFC Clay Pigeon shooting competitions being won by members of South East Area.
- Holding the inaugural South East Area AGRI Discussion Day.

EASTERN AREA
In 2017, the Eastern Area attracted 1,942 members of their six counties – with Norfolk being the most popular with 618 YFC active members.

EASTERN AREA CHAIRMAN 2017, GERALD NORMAN FROM ST ALBANS YFC, SHARES HIS HIGHLIGHTS.

My highlight: “Suffolk Farmers Country Show where I drove the Suffolk YFC Crazy Car, sat on the roof in an armchair with a steering wheel.”

I most enjoyed: “Meeting other Young Farmers and visiting other counties and making new friends across the country and Area”

Our notable events:
- Bedfordshire FYFC’s Handicraft entries – A* top of the class.
- Cambridgeshire’s County Ball – where most counties from the Eastern Area had a table of guests.
- Comberton YFC motivating the young members to give up their free time at the weekend to raise money for their club and a charity by hosting a car wash.
YFC Travel: our 2017 journeys

In 2017, 52 YFC members were awarded a unique opportunity to experience rural life in one of 16 different locations around the world, thanks to support from the NFU Mutual Charitable Trust.

HELEN ROWLAND FROM WARWICKSHIRE FYFC TRAVELLED TO AUSTRIA TO STAY WITH FARMING FAMILIES AND EXPERIENCE THEIR WAY OF LIFE.

“My trip was the best three weeks of my life! I stayed with three amazing host families, learned so much about the culture, farming and language and made lifelong friends! Such an amazing opportunity provided by NFYFC!”

491,286
the number of miles travelled by YFC members through our travel programme.
**Africa’s Gift**  
*Outgoing: Emily Phillips (Staffordshire), Kate Palmer (Devon), Emma Littlewood (Cumbria), Alice Singleton (Lancashire), Marie Place (Cumbria), Laura Poole (Derbyshire), James Gregory-Campeau (Derbyshire), Alice Hyland (Yorkshire), Chloe Harris (Herefordshire), Kate Turnock (Derbyshire), Emma Faulkner (Shropshire), Joseph Stevens (Warwickshire)*

**Argentina**  
*Outgoing: Lucy Barnes (Bedfordshire), Christabel Wilson (Staffordshire), Holly Garrod (Norfolk), James Grant (Norfolk), Holly Gilbert (Devon), Catherine Johnson (Staffordshire), Philip Barnes (Bedfordshire), Charlotte Woolliscroft (Warwickshire), Rhiawen Jones (Brecknock), Evan Thomas (Glamorgan), Laura Carrick (County Durham)*

**Australia**  
*Outgoing: George Lewis (Gwent)  
Incoming: William Craigie (Tasmania)*

**Austria**  
*Outgoing: Helen Rowland (Warwickshire) and Rebecca Smith (Pembrokeshire)  
Incoming: Janine Ritzer*

**Autumn Seminar, Austria**  
*Outgoing: Jessica Bason (Shropshire) and Rhian Watkins (Herefordshire)*

**Canada 4H**  
*Outgoing: Charlotte Middlebrook (Yorkshire), Laura Potts (Cumbria)  
Incoming: Mia Wishlow (British Columbia, Canada) and Jordan Mitchell (Saskatchewan, Canada)*

**Canada JFAO**  
*Outgoing: Emily Warin (East Riding of Yorkshire)*

**European Rally, Latvia**  
*Outgoing: Daniel Grist (Devon), Jana Middlebrook (Shropshire), William Allen (Shropshire), Victoria Ward (Shropshire), Katie Hall (Gloucestershire)*

**Germany**  
*Outgoing: Laura Parker (Cumbria), Hannah Gregory-Campeau (Derbyshire)*

**Argentina**  
*Outgoing: Emily Warin (East Riding of Yorkshire)  
Incoming: Tamara Luers and Corina Lattwesen*

**Montana, USA**  
*Outgoing: Emily Cartmail (Staffordshire) and Poppy Stephens (Gloucestershire)*

**New Zealand – C Alma Baker**  
*Outgoing: Jessica Davies (Shropshire), Elizabeth Hole (Dorset), Owen Morris (Montgomery) and Patrick Pearson (Carmarthenshire)*

**Northern Ireland**  
*Outgoing: Angharad Edwards (Pembrokeshire), Helen Denton (Cornwall)  
Incoming: Chris Coulter*

**Norway**  
*Outgoing: Alistair Hughes (Leicestershire and Rutland)  
Incoming: Benedicte Hansen*

**Scotland**  
*Outgoing: Lauren Hiadun (Lincolnshire), Rupert Shinner (Devon)*

**Spring Seminar**  
*Outgoing: Timothy Davies (Shropshire) and Amy Panton (Cambridgeshire)*

**Switzerland**  
*Outgoing: Elin Havard (Brecknock)  
Incoming: Veronica Dandrea*

**Scholarships**  
*YFA Scholarship – Alistair Hughes (Leicestershire)  
YFA Scholarship – George Lewis (Gwent)  
YFA Scholarship – Laura Potts (Cumbria)  
YFA Scholarship – Angharad Edwards (Pembrokeshire)  
NFU Scholarship – Charlotte Middlebrook (Yorkshire)*

***Steven Crane from Longridge YFC***  
*Stayed in New Zealand on a trip funded by C Alma Baker and is now planning a new business venture.*

> “It was unreal – it’s like a different world over there. I had my own awesome cabin and the Limestone Downs family have so much time for you when you’re there. I learnt so much and feel inspired to do more. Since I got back I have started looking for my own plot of land.”

**Hannah Gregory-Campeau from Derbyshire FYFC travelled to Germany on a homestay adventure.***

> “I loved every minute of my fortnight in Germany. My three host families were so friendly and welcoming, making me feel right at home in this beautiful country. My only regret – not travelling with Young Farmers sooner!”

---

100% the percentage of YFC members who said they enjoyed their travel opportunity and would recommend it to others.
Facing the post-Brexit storm for seasonal labour

A challenging year following the vote on Brexit has put NFYFC’s commercial arm, HOPS Labour Solutions, in the media spotlight explains HOPS’ Chairman John Hardman

With demand outstripping supply for seasonal labour in 2017, it has been a rollercoaster of a year for HOPS that is expected to continue in 2018.

HOPS has been forced to completely revise its business model with regards to seasonal labour for UK horticulture. While we continue to recruit from Romania and Bulgaria, the decision for the UK to leave the EU in March 2019 is of serious concern. There is currently no succession plan for access to seasonal and temporary workers post-Brexit and HOPS has attended many Government meetings and discussions with the NFU to raise these issues.

Our concerns have been picked up by the global media – with our team contributing to reports in the domestic agricultural press, such as Farmers Weekly and the Farmers Guardian, as well as national and international media such as the New York Times and even the China Post.

Despite these challenges, our diversification of the business into skilled recruitment for UK agriculture in 2016 continues to develop and expand. HOPS Recruitment has successfully recruited dairy staff, general farm workers, stockmen and tractor/sprayer operatives in 2017 and the company is now moving into recruitment for executive positions.

HOPS Executive soft launched in Q4 of 2017, together with a new website. Executive recruitment was the only area of recruitment for UK agriculture in 2016 continues to develop and expand. HOPS Recruitment has successfully recruited dairy staff, general farm workers, stockmen and tractor/sprayer operatives in 2017 and the company is now moving into recruitment for executive positions.

HOPS Executive soft launched in Q4 of 2017, together with a new website. Executive recruitment was the only area of the industry that HOPS did not recruit for, and it made sense to launch this to further diversify HOPS’ income, without requiring immediate further resource.

As one of NFYFC’s biggest investments, HOPS was delighted to be able to make a cash donation of £35,000 to the Federation in 2017, in addition to contributing to the running costs of the NFYFC building. We also sponsored a number of competitions throughout the year.

Our team has remained the same during 2017, although Mike Stirk has resigned from his position of Chairman of the Board of Management after many years of service.

Both the HOPS and NFYFC team are indebted to Mike for his help and wish him well in his retirement.

Sarah Boparan, formerly HOPS’ Head of Recruitment, has been appointed to the Board as a Director to help drive the business forward.

Although there are recruitment challenges for the whole of the industry, HOPS is confident in its future, and looks forward to continuing to support NFYFC.
## Membership returns

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>England</th>
<th>TOTAL OPEN CLUBS</th>
<th>TOTAL SCHOOL CLUBS</th>
<th>TOTAL 10-26 CLUBS</th>
<th>TOTAL LEADERS</th>
<th>TOTAL ASSOC.</th>
<th>GRAND TOTAL</th>
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<th>TOTAL SCHOOL CLUBS</th>
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*No annual return received; previous historical records have been used.*
### The National Federation of Young Farmers’ Clubs

**Summary of financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2017**

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<th>Unrestricted funds</th>
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<td>19,908</td>
<td>20,438</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youthwork and training</td>
<td>109,974</td>
<td>1,518</td>
<td>9,911</td>
<td>121,403</td>
<td>86,100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>21,447</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,487</td>
<td>24,934</td>
<td>21,212</td>
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<tr>
<td>Competitions</td>
<td>68,654</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4,276</td>
<td>72,930</td>
<td>67,204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Social Action</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>15,311</td>
<td>15,311</td>
<td>54,082</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture and rural issues</td>
<td>58,725</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>33,335</td>
<td>92,060</td>
<td>71,530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</strong></td>
<td>488,567</td>
<td>1,518</td>
<td>66,487</td>
<td>535,572</td>
<td>494,851</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other expenditure</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>105,342</td>
<td>1,126</td>
<td>9,495</td>
<td>115,963</td>
<td>111,842</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management</td>
<td>69,517</td>
<td>2,613</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>72,130</td>
<td>66,209</td>
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<tr>
<td>Governance</td>
<td>74,455</td>
<td>545</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>74,980</td>
<td>69,943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising and marketing</td>
<td>153,724</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>153,724</td>
<td>158,595</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information technology</td>
<td>39,121</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>39,121</td>
<td>41,107</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</strong></td>
<td>442,159</td>
<td>4,264</td>
<td>9,495</td>
<td>455,918</td>
<td>448,896</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET (OUTGOING)/INCOMING RESOURCES</strong></td>
<td>(28,970)</td>
<td>(5,782)</td>
<td>(5,947)</td>
<td>(40,699)</td>
<td>145,546</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Realised gain on sale of investments</td>
<td>7,625</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7,625</td>
<td>25,675</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unrealised gain on revaluation of investments</td>
<td>145,940</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>75,240</td>
<td>221,180</td>
<td>294,593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS</strong></td>
<td>124,565</td>
<td>(5,782)</td>
<td>69,303</td>
<td>189,106</td>
<td>468,114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund balances at 1 January 2017</td>
<td>1,575,982</td>
<td>189,528</td>
<td>985,435</td>
<td>2,750,945</td>
<td>2,282,831</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FUND BALANCES AT 31 DECEMBER 2017</strong></td>
<td>1,700,577</td>
<td>183,746</td>
<td>1,054,728</td>
<td>2,939,051</td>
<td>2,750,945</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The National Federation of Young Farmers’ Clubs
Balance sheet for the year ended 31 December 2017.
Final audited accounts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS EMPLOYED</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tangible fixed assets</td>
<td>10,483</td>
<td>19,144</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Listed</td>
<td>2,825,377</td>
<td>2,551,242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Unlisted</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| **CURRENT ASSETS**     |           |           |
| Stock - Club supplies  | 6,822     | 8,258     |
| Stock - Youthwork and training | 1,819 | -         |
| Debtors & prepayments | 93,154    | 58,795    |
| Cash at bank & in hand | 318,443   | 438,174   |
|                        | 420,238   | 505,227   |

| **CURRENT LIABILITIES**|           |           |
| Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year | 317,050 | 324,671 |
| Creditors & accruals |            |           |
|                        | 103,188   | 180,556   |

| **NET CURRENT ASSETS** |           |           |
|                        | 2,939,051 | 2,750,945 |

| **NET ASSETS** |           |           |
|                | 2,939,051 | 2,750,945 |

| **FUNDED BY**   |           |           |
| Restricted funds| 1,054,728 | 985,435   |
| Unrestricted funds |       |           |
| - designated     | 183,746   | 189,528   |
| - general        | 1,700,577 | 1,575,982 |
|                  | 2,939,051 | 2,750,945 |

The information in these pages is a summary of the Federation’s Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2017. Copies of the full Financial Statements can be obtained from the Federation’s Headquarters at the YFC Centre, 10th Street, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG.
Thank you to our sponsors

NFYFC's sponsors' ongoing support ensures that our members are able to develop new skills, travel abroad, take part in a varied competitions programme and reach their full potential. Specifically, NFYFC would like to extend our thanks to the following organisations.

Thank you for our grants and donations

NFYFC is very grateful to the large number of organisations who have given grants and donations to support the Federation’s activities.

Thank you to our supporters

NFYFC is very grateful to the large number of organisations who contribute their goods and services to the Federation.